Diversion of Forest Land at Ambaji for Mining

3706. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Government has submitted any proposal for diversion of 190 hectares of forest land at Ambaji in Banaskantha District of Gujarat for marble mining by the private parties;

(b) if so, when the proposal was received by Government and the reasons for not giving approval for more than 5 years; and

(c) by when Government propose to grant final approval to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal of Government of Gujarat for diversion of 190 ha. of forest land for marble mining in respect of 44 parties at Ambaji in Banaskantha district was received in the year 1988. This was found lacking in essential information. After receipt of the wanting information from the State Government, the proposal was approved in principle in 1991 with certain conditions. The report on compliance of stipulated conditions has been received in phases from the State Government and the proposal has been accorded final approval on 27.1.97.

Directives of CPCB to its State Units

3707. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has directed all its State Units to monitor the industries which import waste under the Basel Convention;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to preveni indiscriminate import of hazardous wastes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) According to the information made available by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), CPCB has directed State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in Union Territories to monitor polluting industries. No specific directions have been issued by the CPCB to those industries which import hazardous wastes under Basel Convention. However, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have directed the State Governments and State Pollution Control Boards to take necessary action under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for taking expeditious action to implement Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989.

(c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have written to all the State I Governments and Union Territories not to permit any import of hazardous wastes in the country in compliance, with the Hon'ble Delhi High Court's order dated 10-4-96 in Writ Petition No. 67—96 in M4. Harshwardhan Steels V/s. Union of India. Meanwhile, in the Writ Petition No. 657/95 in the matter of Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy V/£. the Union of India, the Hon'ble Supreme Court have passed a judgement on the issue, the details of which are awaited.

Recruitment Proposal of CPCB

3708. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposals for method of recruitment for the posts of Director/Additional Director A-O, Junior Environment Engineer and upgradation of a number of posts at senior levels were sent by the Central

Pollution Control Board (CPCB), New Delhi for approval to the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the dates on which each of the proposal was received in the Ministry; and

(c) whether the proposals have since been approved, and if so, on which date and if not, the reasons therefor in respect of each proposal and by when these are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) The details of the proposals sent by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the dates on which they were received in the Ministry are given below:

S. No	Nature of the Proposal	Date of receipt in the Ministry
1.	Creation of post of Senior Environmental Engineer in CPCB (05 posts)	10.10.1995
2.	Creation of post of Senior Scientist in CPCB (03 posts)	10.10.1995
3.	Creation of post of Senior Law Officer (01 post) and Law Officer (01 post) in CPCB	08.02.1995
4.	Revival of the post of Senior Administrative Officer (01 post) in CPCB.	03.11.1995
5.	Draft Recruitment Rules for the posts of Director/Addl. Director under ESS	14.06.1996
6.	Recruitment Rules for the post of Junior Environmental Engineer in CPCB.	Not received.

The draft recruitment rules for the posts of Director and Additional Director for Environment Surveillance Squads in CPCB, are under consideration in consultation with the Department of Personnel & Training. The Central Pollution Control Board has assigned a Work Measurement study to the Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR), New Delhi, in 1995. Their report is awaited. These proposals will be considered after receipt of the report of IAMR.

Hike in the prices of PDS items

3709. SHRI RAM DAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of wheat, rice and sugar meant for sale through PDS have been hiked a number of times by Government during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof item-wise/ price-wise during the year as compared to 1995-96 till date also indicating the increase in the subsidy burden;

(c) whether this frequent rise will not affect the people who are living below the poverty line and depend more or less on foodgrains being supplied/sold through PDS; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps Government have taken so far to mitigate the hardships being caused to the poor people on account of increase in prices as well as non-availability of ration item at PDS?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (d) The Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice for PDS raised w.c.f. 1.2.94 arc still in force. Consequent upon the decision of